

*the Epithet Romantic**

in the universe; and he will see to the consequences. For the present, he seems to say to his servants, " Forbear to inquire why so small a part of those objects to which I have summoned your activity, is placed within the reach of your powers. Your feeble ability for action is not accompanied by such a capacity of understanding, as would be requisite to comprehend why that ability was made no greater. Though it had been made incomparably greater, would there not still have been objects before it too vast for its operation ? Must not the highest of created beings still have something in view, which they feel, they can but partially accomplish till the sphere of their active force be enlarged ? Must there not be an end of improvement in my creation, if the powers of my creatures had become perfectly equal to the magnitude of their designs ? How mean must be the spirit of that being that would not make an effort now, toward the accomplishment of something higher than he will be able to accomplish till hereafter. Because mightier labourers would have been requisite to effect all that you wish, will you murmur that I have honoured you, the inferior ones, with the appointment of making a noble exertion with however limited success ? If there is but little power in *your* hands, is it not because I retain the power in *mine* ? Are you afraid lest that power should fail to do all things right, only because *you* are so little made its instruments ? Be grateful that *all* the work is not to be done without you, and that God employs you in that in which he also is employed. But remember, that while the employment is yours, the success is altogether his ; and that your diligence therefore, and not the measure of effect which it produces, will be the test of your characters. Good men have been employed in all ages under the same economy of inadequate means, and what appeared to them inconsiderable success. Go to your labours: every sincere effort will infallibly be one step more in your own progress to a perfect state; and as to the Cause, when / see it necessary for a God to interpose in his own manner, I will come."

I might deem a train of observations of the melancholy hue which shades some of the latter pages of this essay of too depressive a tendency, were I not convinced that a serious exhibition of the feebleness of human agency in relation to all great objects, may aggravate the impression» often so